

## MP PAPUL'S JS MEMBERSHIP HC rejects writ against cancellation

*Observes sentence by court of any state for 2yrs or more for moral turpitude disqualifies MP*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that if any court of sovereign state convicts and punishes a lawmaker of Bangladesh with imprisonment for two years or more for moral turpitude, he or she becomes disqualified to hold the office of Member of Parliament.

With this observation, the court summarily rejected a writ petition filed challenging the legality of decisions for announcing the Laxmipur-2 constituency, where Mohammad Shahid Islam also known as Kazi Papul was elected an independent lawmaker, vacant and the schedule for holding a by-election to this constituency on June 21.

A Kuwaiti court on January 28 sentenced Kazi Papul and four others to four years in jail in a bribery case.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Mohammad Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Kamrul Hossain Mollah passed the rejection order also saying that the writ petitioners have no locus standite (quality) to move such a writ petition as they are not persons aggrieved due to the decisions, petitioners' lawyer Mustafizur Rahman Khan told The

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A group of people callously crossing the busy Airport Road putting their lives at risk. They could have taken the footbridge seen only a few metres away. The photo was taken in the capital's Banani area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Pvt survey on new poor faulty

*Says planning minister; govt doing own survey*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planning Minister MA Mannan said yesterday that studies done by private organisations do not provide scientific consensus on the exact number of people who became poor during the pandemic.

He also said the government is trying, by conducting a survey, to find out how many people became newly poor due to the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is working on [finding out] how many people have become poor due to the impact of coronavirus in the country," the minister said during a press conference after the National Procurement Committee meeting at the ministry yesterday.

"However, the numbers already mentioned by various organisations are said to be from one crore to five crore people becoming poor during the pandemic. As a result, it is difficult to say which of these is true," he added.

"Finding out how many people have become poor in a scientific way is a matter of time. However, I will request the bureau of statistics to estimate the number by conducting a conceptual survey in a short time."

Muhammad Yamin Chowdhury, secretary of the statistics division, said, "We are working to find out how many people in the country have become poor due to Covid-19. The survey work will be completed in the next one and a half years. It can then be said how many people

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## KUSHTIA SUGAR MILLS 53 tonnes of sugar vanish, probe on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

About 53 tonnes of sugar, worth around Tk 33 lakh, has been stolen from a warehouse of state-owned Kushtia Sugar Mills.

A probe committee, formed by the mill authorities, has filed a general diary with Kushtia Model Police Station over the matter.

The industries ministry has also launched an investigation and members of a committee formed by it visited the spot on Monday.

Sources said the mill was supposed to have 121 tonnes of sugar in its reserve, but the latest stock statement revealed that the sugar was missing.

The matter first came to light on June 3 when the mill authorities received a report on the stock situation, prepared by store keeper Faridul Islam. The report had several discrepancies.

Faridul on June 5 was suspended as he failed to give any explanation over the discrepancy, the sources said.

Sabirul Alam, in-charge of Kushtia Model Police Station, said the mill authorities filed a GD mentioning that

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ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Operation Hotel InterContinental

JUNE 9, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

HIT & RUN  
Commandos of the Crack Platoon today launched an attack at InterContinental Dhaka. The commandos, armed with grenades, bayonets, and submachine guns, stopped in a car in front of the hotel. Five grenades were thrown in the attack which took place between 7:45pm and 8:00pm.

The purpose of the mission was to stop the World Bank aid mission and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, head of the UNHCR, from providing financial assistance to the Pakistani junta and, through them, draw the attention of the world to the strong resistance put up by Bangalee freedom fighters.

The team from the World Bank and the UNHCR had been informed and assured by the Pakistan propaganda machine that everything in the then East Pakistan, especially in Dhaka city, was absolutely normal. Moreover, they said that the eastern part of Pakistan was totally under the control of the Pakistani rulers and the army.

MOVE TO CUT AID TO PAKISTAN  
A bipartisan amendment to cut off US economic as well as military aid to Pakistan was introduced in the Senate today.

The measure was cosponsored by Senators Frank Church (Democrat, Idaho) and William Saxbe (Republican, Ohio). It would suspend military and economic aid to Pakistan until food and medical relief supervised by international agencies was provided on a regular basis throughout East Pakistan and

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## ENG DELWAR MURDER His colleague killed him for obstructing bribery

*Police say in charge sheet*

CHATTANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Delwar Hossain, then executive engineer of Gazipur City Corporation, was killed last year over a disagreement with his colleague Mohammad Selim over the latter's illegal activities, a police probe has found.

Investigation Officer Sheikh Mofizul Islam, also an inspector of Turag Police Station, filed the charge sheet in the murder case of Delwar with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on May 3.

The IO in the charge sheet described how Delwar was brutally killed in a planned way by Selim, assistant engineer of the city corporation, and his

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## Australia's largest dinosaur a new species



AFP, Brisbane

A gigantic dinosaur discovered in Australia's outback has been identified as a new species and recognised as one of the largest to ever roam the Earth, according to palaeontologists.

The Australotitan cooperensis, part of the titanosaur family that lived about 100 million years ago, has finally been named and described 15 years after its bones were first uncovered.

It is estimated to have stood at 5-6.5 metres (16-21 feet) high and measured 25-30 metres (82-98 feet) in length -- which would make it Australia's biggest dinosaur.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:05 12:45 5:00 6:45 8:15  
JAMAAT 4:40 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## GLITCH IN FASTLY Media, govt websites hit by outages

AGENCIES

Several media, government and social sites such as the UK government, the White House and Reddit suffered temporary outages yesterday due to a glitch in cloud computing services provider Fastly.

Fastly said "the issue has been identified and a fix has been applied. Customers may experience increased origin load as global services return."

Access to many sites were restored around 1044 GMT but others were still affected.

Messages such as "Error 503 Service Unavailable" and "connection failure" appeared on the websites of CNN, the Financial Times, The Guardian, France's Le Monde newspaper, Italy's Corriere della Serra and Spanish daily El Mundo as well as social and entertainment site Reddit.

The White House and gov.uk websites had an error message but were

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People living on the foot and slope of a hill being warned of landslides and asked to move out in Chittagong's Motijhorna area. Heavy rains during the monsoon pose serious risks of landslides in the area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## WHO warns of 'two-track pandemic'

*Says cases decline but vaccine inequity persists, urges job makers to give Covax 50pc of doses*

AGENCIES

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said unequal distribution of vaccines has allowed the coronavirus to continue spreading, thus increasing odds of a variant emerging that could render these treatments ineffective.

"Increasingly, we see a two-track pandemic: many countries still face an extremely dangerous situation, while some of those with the highest vaccination rates are starting to talk about ending restrictions," he told a media briefing from WHO headquarters in Geneva on Monday evening.

More than 2.15 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been injected in at least 215 territories around the world, according to an AFP count.

But just 0.3 percent have been administered in the 29 lowest-income countries, home to nine percent of the world's people.

"Inequitable vaccination is a threat to all nations, not just those with the fewest vaccines," said Tedros.

He called for Covid-19 vaccine manufacturers to give Covax first refusal on new doses, or commit half of their volumes to the global job equity scheme.

Tedros said manufacturers should turn their attention to the Covax facility, which has struggled to get donation-funded doses to poorer countries.

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